

FIL tips for library attendees

Contributed by Libros for Oregon, LINCC and WCCLS FIL attendees, 2017 & 2018

AT THE FIL

- Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday from 9am-5pm are for professionals only, so it is much less crowded and easier to navigate. 5pm-9pm those days are open to the public.
- Sunday is open to the public, but it is a great time to get started. You'll move a little more slowly because of the crowds, but it can give you a jump on your selecting, and also allow you to plan out your shopping strategy for Monday-Wednesday (when the public isn't visiting, and you'll want to get most of your selecting/shopping accomplished).
- FIL Niños is great to experience, and is easiest to get into on one of the public weekend days (during the week it's booked with school groups). It's got terrific programming. It also has selections of youth materials from many of the bigger publishers. (Same materials they have in their larger stands, but just the youth stuff.)
- Smaller publishers sell out fast because runs of titles are small (in comparison to the US publishing industry). Hit up indie publishers, the international section, etc. first if you can, and then visit the larger publishing houses after that (Penguin, Macmillan, etc.).
- Bring colored pencils with erasers, for color-coding your categories, collections, plans, etc. Highlighters might be nice too, but it's likely you'll want to erase and change things a lot...
- Note: The children's row and the International Wing stop selling materials at noon on Wednesday, so you'll want to have them all wrapped up by then.
- If you have a vendor, they will probably provide you with water bottles.
- You will be on your feet A LOT. If you ask, most publishers will drag out a folding chair for you to sit on. (You could also bring a lightweight folding camp stool, such as [this one](#) from REI.)
- If you are asking for "novedades" or new books, make sure that they are also "la primera edición" or the first edition because they'll sometimes include books that are a first edition print.
- The International Area will include a lot of booksellers that are only for viewing "exhibición" and they won't allow you to buy on the spot. Ask before you start reviewing and wanting to buy on the spot.

FIL tips for library attendees

Contributed by Libros for Oregon, LINCC and WCCLS FIL attendees, 2017 & 2018

- FIL has an app, but you might want to consider taking a screenshot of the expo floor and mapping out the stands that you want to visit ahead of time so you have a game plan.

- **Food at the FIL:**
 - The tacos area is inexpensive, if maybe not the best food in the world.
 - Some folks found a restaurant in the FIL that had great food options, including a salad bar.
 - Some folks considered the food at the FIL overpriced and not very appealing, and suggest that if you have time, considering going outside the Expo for lunch.
 - One suggestion was to check out the restaurant **Merendero el Tapatio**, which is about two blocks away and has great, cheap food.
<https://www.yelp.com/biz/merendero-el-tapatio-guadalajara>. Try the memelas (like a fried quesadilla/empanada combo), I think lunch is at 1pm (check times) and it is open for dinner. However, allow time to wait in line - lots of FIL attendees eat there.
 - Cheap, fast tortas and tacos across the street at **Ahogadas Don Tortas** (above the Little Caesars).
 - This is another time it can be handy to have a screenshot of a map you looked up earlier on Yelp or wherever.

- If you need a break and want to get away from the crowds, the Hilton Hotel across the street from the Expo has a **Starbucks** where you can grab a coffee/tea and snacks while recharging your electronics. It's usually surprisingly quiet with few lines.

SELECTION questions to consider:

- There are cheap (like, \$1/each) workbooks and word finds, that kind of thing. Will your library/libraries want them for SRP giveaways maybe?
 - Keep in mind that there will be a percentage charged for these "cheap" books if you are working with a vendor who will send them back to the US.

- Booksellers will often try to do a "show-and-tell" with all of their new books. It might feel rude, but just tell them that you want to them to bring you the new

FIL tips for library attendees

Contributed by Libros for Oregon, LINCC and WCCLS FIL attendees, 2017 & 2018

books and to review them on your own. Otherwise, it can take up a lot of your time. Be direct!

- You can ask booksellers to bring you certain categories of books. If you can take over tables, then it would be easier to have a place to work.
- Price stickers will often be on the shrink wrap, so if you remove it to look at the books, make sure you keep it tucked inside the book for noting prices later.
- See if your vendor can provide you with carbon copies of your selection forms.

EVENTS

- At the ALA/FIL Gala Sunday night, they will give you a swag bag that will have at least a couple bulky books in it. Save room.
 - (You might be able to persuade your vendor to ship your swag books in the boxes with the books you buy.)
- Your vendor may plan to take all their clients out for dinner one night, often Tuesday night. Ask about that. And go! It's a fun experience.

GUADALAJARA

- The last Friday of the month is a teacher continuing education day (according to our taxi driver) and therefore kids are not in school and traffic is much lighter.
- If you can, add a day or two to your trip so you can see sites outside the Expo! You can make time to go to markets, churches, murals, pyramids, the lake, downtown monuments, museums, and more. If you don't have time to research possibilities before you arrive, the hotel staff will be happy to make suggestions. Hotels will also help you with buses and other logistics.

SAFETY

- When using a taxi, agree to the price beforehand. The number on the driver's license card should match the license plates.
- if you take a taxi anywhere have them pull all the way up to the front door of your hotel (there are cameras there and the staff will check the driver's name etc. The hotels have specific drivers they use for airport transportation and they will always help you with taxi service if you ask)
- If you walk anywhere, walking with friends is a good idea, and it's always good in a city to be aware of your surroundings. After dark it's probably best to taxi.

MISCELLANEOUS

- Remember not to drink the tap water in Mexico.

FIL tips for library attendees

Contributed by Libros for Oregon, LINCC and WCCLS FIL attendees, 2017 & 2018

- Wear good walking shoes, dress comfortably, definitely go to any Gala/vendor dinners offered. you might hear mariachi music, see dancing (ballet folklórico) have really good margaritas... and eat amazing local food...!
- If you are traveling with a large group to the airport from the hotel, you can make arrangements with the hotel staff to reserve a shuttle for the day/time you plan to leave.